



**City of San Diego
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM MARTI EMERALD
DISTRICT NINE
M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: February 2, 2015

Reference: M-15-02-01

TO: Council President Sherri S. Lightner, Chair
Committee on Charter Review

FROM: Council President Pro Tem Marti Emerald

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marti Emerald".

SUBJECT: Charter Review Committee Priorities

This is in response to your memo dated December 18, 2014 regarding priorities for the Special Issues Committee on Charter Review. With the understanding that additional ideas may arise as we go through the process, I respectfully submit the following topics of concern for potential charter updates and modifications:

1. The Committee should take all necessary steps to solicit the maximum possible public input into the process.
2. To the greatest extent possible, make the charter language easy for the average citizen to understand and digest. Use plain language and minimize the amount of text.
3. Create an introductory passage outlining the purposes and goals of the San Diego City Charter.
4. To the extent possible, place the most significant proposed charter amendments on the General Election Ballot for 2016, as opposed to the Primary Election ballot. The purpose would be to allow for the greatest amount of participation by voters, who turn out in greater numbers for the general election. If necessary, place items that are merely housekeeping in nature on the primary ballot.
5. Reform the referendum process to reduce the potential for results to be influenced by a small number of people spending large amounts of money. Take steps to ensure that campaigns for and against referendum measures are conducted transparently and without willful deception.
6. Incorporate the language of Council Policy 500-09 Minimum Staffing for Fire Engines and Fire Trucks.

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7. Examine whether the city needs to reform Charter Sections 26 and 26.1 in order to allow voters to consider having all users pay for refuse collection and thereby provide more General Fund revenue for public safety, infrastructure and other critical needs.
8. Remove the responsibility of setting Mayoral and Council salaries from the City Council. Look to the recommendations of the city's Salary Setting Commission.

ME/tt

cc: Honorable Members of the City Council

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL POLICY

CURRENT

SUBJECT: MINIMUM STAFFING FOR FIRE ENGINES AND FIRE TRUCKS
POLICY NO.: 500-09
EFFECTIVE DATE: November 29, 2010

BACKGROUND:

As of June 30, 2010, the City of San Diego has forty-seven (47) fire engines and twelve (12) fire trucks. Presently, it is the City Policy to staff fire engines and trucks with four personnel, which is consistent with national professional standards within the firefighting industry. Despite budget-cutting moves by the Fire-Rescue Department, the City has not swayed from the national standard of four personnel staffing on each engine and truck.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Council Policy is to clearly state the City Council's desire and intent to maintain minimum staffing of fire engines and fire trucks, consistent with the national industry standard.

POLICY

The City Council is deeply committed to improving public safety throughout the City of San Diego. The Fire-Rescue Department provides resources for the emergency response to fires and needed emergency medical services in an environment of continued development of dwelling units and associated population increases.

The City Council is committed to providing the appropriate resources for the fastest response time and cessation of emergency incidents by the Fire-Rescue Department.

It is the intention of the City Council that fire engines and fire trucks positioned in fire stations be staffed and operational, consistent with national fire industry standards.

This policy of the City Council requires that all in-service fire engines and fire trucks be minimally staffed with four-person crews.

This policy is not intended to create a legal duty where one does not exist.

HISTORY:

Adopted by Resolution R-306319 - 11/29/2010